Quality inspection centres for marine products in Andhra Pradesh

1863. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MPEDA is setting up 15 Quality Inspection Centres in Andhra Pradesh for Marine products;

(b) if so, the details of the locations of such Centres being set up by MPEDA;

(c) by when such Centres would be functional;

(d) whether MPEDA is also educating marine products farmers to improve the quality of their produce; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is setting up two laboratories for testing for antibiotic residues and microbiological analysis of marine products in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The laboratories are to be located in Bhimavaram and Nellore.

(c) These laboratories are likely to be functional by May, 2003.

(d) and (e) MPEDA has been educating aquacultural farmers by conducting farmers meets, workshops, training programmes, village level campaigns etc., for improving the quality of their produce.

Sea-food export

1864. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh contributes 48 percent of the country's Rs. 6,400 crores worth of sea-food export annually;

(b) whether a large number of processing units and export houses in the sea-food industry in Andhra Pradesh have been closed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have taken any action towards giving several concessions, incentives and subsidies for re-opening of closed processing units and export houses in the sea-food industries of Andhra Pradesh;